

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01492 121024Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

ACDA-07 IO-13 SAJ-01 CU-02 EB-07 STR-04 OES-06 TRSE-00

/104 W

----- 076277

R 111752Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6770

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL REYKJAVIK 1492

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UR, IC, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTERESTS IN ICELAND

REF: STATE 271761

1. DURING COURTESY CALL BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR FARAFONOV ON ME NOVEMBER 10 (SEPTEL), I ASKED HIM ABOUT LEVEL OF SOVIET INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES HERE. (I UNDERSTAND HEAD COUNT AT SOVIET EMBASSY IS 67). FARAFONOV NOTED CURRENT PRESENCE IN REYKJAVIK OF ARMENIAN CULTURAL GROUP AND THAT HE HAD ARRANGED FOR IT TO CALL ON PRESIDENT ELDJARN. FROM TIME TO TIME, SOVIET EMBASSY ENDEAVORS TO PLACE INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL WITH LOCAL PRESS BUT, ACCORDING TO HIM, WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. FARAFONOV SAID TRADE BETWEEN USSR AND ICELAND IS LIMITED TO EXCHANGE OF SOVIET OIL FOR ICELANDIC FISH, FISH PRODUCTS AND ICELANDIC WOOL PRODUCTS, BUT PROBLEM EXISTS IN THAT ICELAND DOES NOT HAVE VERY MUCH TO SELL. (ACTUALLY, AS OF OCTOBER 1976, SOVIET BALANCE AGAINST ICELAND WAS \$36 MILLION. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY GUNNAR THORODDSEN TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT SOVIETS HAD TRIED IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 01492 121024Z

PAST TO GET ICELAND TO BUY SOVIET MOTOR VEHICLES

AND MACHINERY IN CONTEXT OF EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, BUT GOI HAD TURNED THEM DOWN.) WHEN I TOLD AMBASSADOR I HAD SEEN VERY ATTRACTIVE SOVIET MONTHLY MAGAZINE PRINTED IN ICELANDIC, HE DISMISSED ITS IMPORTANCE SAYING THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO ITS DISCONTINUANCE BECAUSE OF ITS COST AND LIMITED CIRCULATION. WHEN I ASKED, HE TOLD ME THAT THE PUBLICATION, QUOTE NEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION UNQUOTE, IS MAILED TO ANYONE WHO REQUESTS IT.

2. FOLLOWING DAY, SOVIET PRESS OFFICER, VITOR V. ELISEYEV, FIRST SECRETARY, CALLED ON NEWLY-ARRIVED PAO RANTANEN AFTER FIRST REQUESTING APPOINTMENT. ELISEYEV EXPRESSED HOPE FOR FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND SOVIET UNION UNDER NEW ADMINISTRATION. PAO ADHERED TO LINE SET FORTH REFTEL. IN RESPONSE TO PAO'S QUERIES, ELISEYEV WHO HAS FIRST SECRETARY RANK, SAID REYKJAVIK WAS HIS FIRST DIPLOMATIC ASSIGNMENT. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN A QUOTE DESIGN ENGINEER UNQUOTE UNTIL 1971 WHEN HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.

3. ELISEYEV, WHO SPOKE FAIR ENGLISH AND SWEDISH, SAID AN ICELANDIC INSTRUCTOR WAS TEACHING ICELANDIC AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY TO STAFFERS. (THIS CONFIRMS INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THE SOVIETS ARE UPGRADING LANGUAGE SKILLS OF THEIR OFFICERS WHO ARE CARRYING OUT INCREASED PERSONAL CONTACTS AND APPEARING AT MORE PUBLIC FUNCTIONS). ELISEYEV EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING INVITATIONS TO SOME USIS SHOWINGS AND OFFERED TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PAO TO VIEW ANY OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S QUOTE LARGE STOCK OF FILMS UNQUOTE. HE ALSO SAID PAO WOULD BE INVITED TO CERTAIN EMBASSY FUNCTIONS. IN SHORT, ELISEYEV APPEARED ANXIOUS TO MAKE AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH PAO.

BLAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976REYKJA01492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760422-0235
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761158/aaaabyag.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 271761
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET INTERESTS IN ICELAND
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UR, IC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006